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Βῆτα Θῆτα Πι

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The University of California.

BY WILLARD G. PARSONS, OMEGA.

All hail! thou western world! by heaven designed,
The example bright to renovate mankind!
Soon shall thy sons across the mainland roam
And claim on far Pacific's shore a home;
Their rule, religion, manners, arts convey
And spread their freedom to the Asian sea.
Towns, cities, fanes shall lift their towering pride,
The village bloom on every streamlet's side;
Proud commerce's mole the western surges lave,
The long white spire lie imaged on the wave.
Where marshes teemed with death shall meads unfold,
Untrodden cliffs resign their stores of gold;
Where slept perennial night shall science rise
And new-born Oxfords cheer the evening skies.

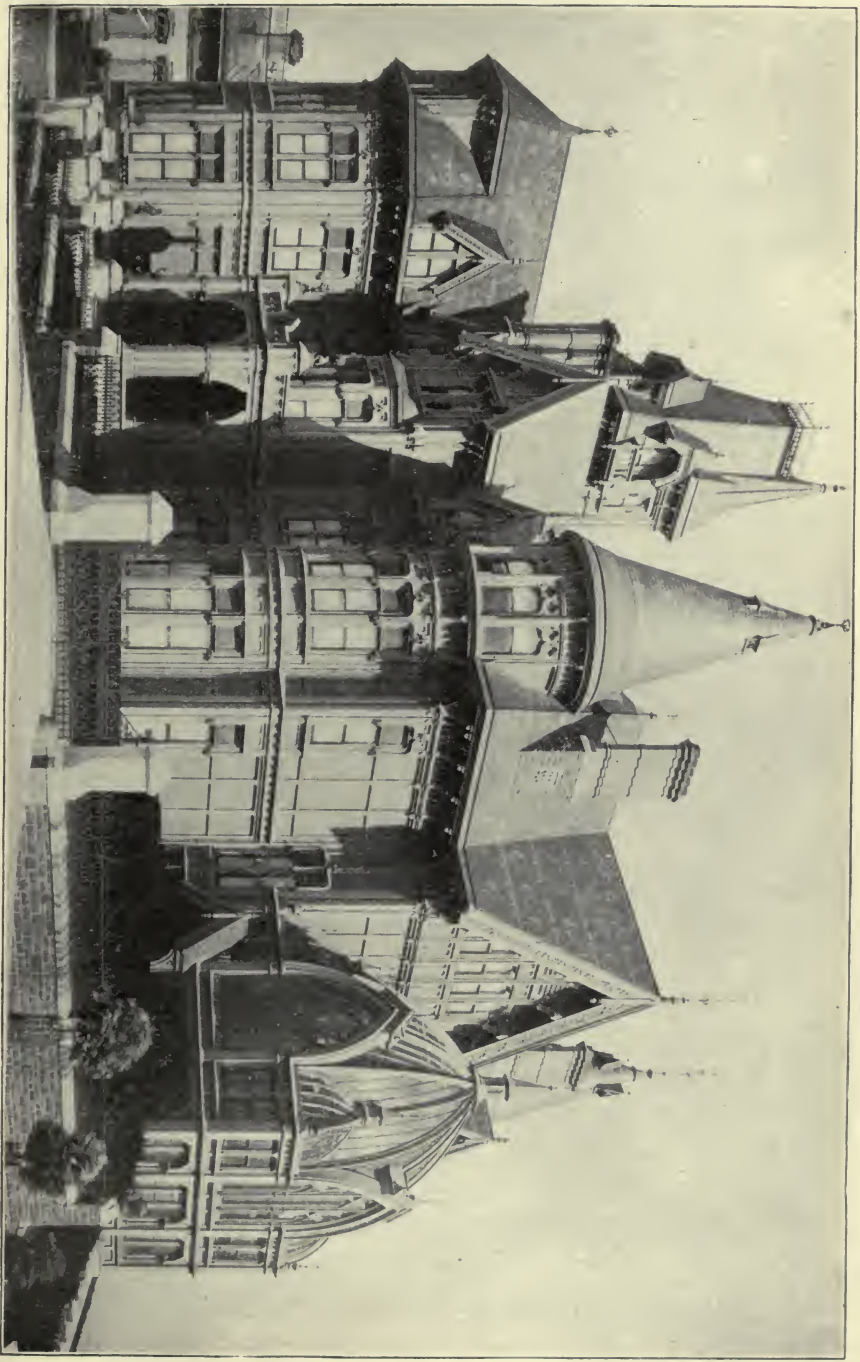
—Written in 1794 by Timothy Dwight,
President of Yale College, 1795-1817.

When Abraham Lincoln in 1862 signed the land grant bill to promote education, the immediate stimulus that brought into existence the University of California was furnished. The constitution of the state, to be sure, formulated in 1849, had called in no uncertain terms for the establishment of a university, and a strong desire in the community to realize its foundation had shown itself in yearly attempts to open the way. These earliest efforts are particularly interesting from the fact that they each gave a certain bent to the movement, and the university today exhibits results of their influence.

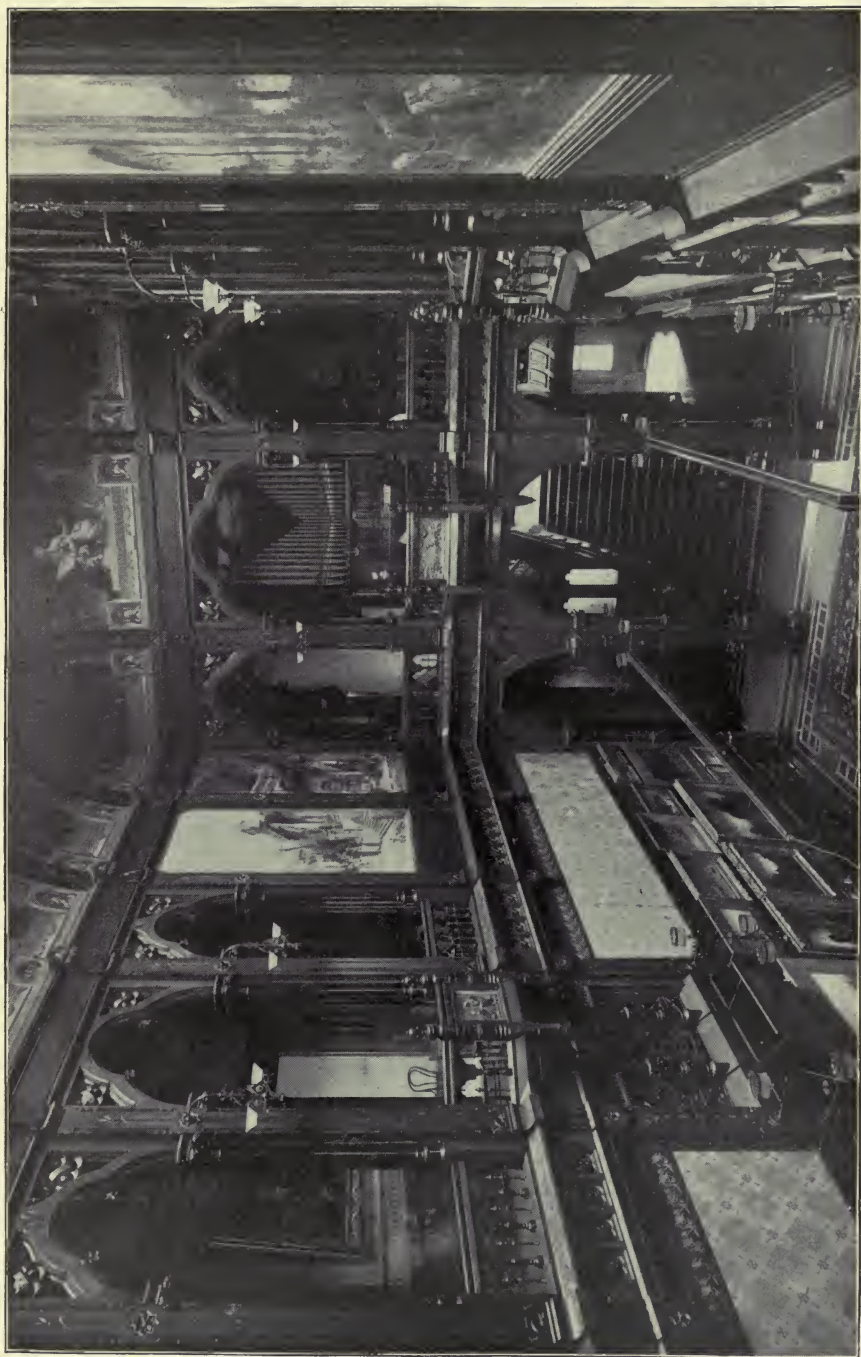
The first suggestion, proffered in the very first Legislature of California, called for a *Colegio de Univeria*. In 1858 a vigorous plea was made for the founding of the university as a state military institute. Finally, the act of 1862 gave California "one hundred and fifty thousand acres for the endowment of at least one college, where the leading object should be to teach subjects pertaining to agriculture and mechanics." Mining, military drill, and agriculture are today marked features of the university.

But, notwithstanding the constitution's demand for a university, and the active interest of the people of the state, the design was too large to admit of accomplishment until the national gift of land was made. This was too munificent to be lost, and the state at once set about finding ways and means for carrying out the provisions of the act. It soon found its opportunity in the College of California, a school already existing in Oakland.

Henry Durant, a name revered in the annals of California, left his pastorate in a New England village in 1853 and came to San Francisco,—came, as he said, "with college on the brain." He had been in California hardly a month when he opened a school in a former fandango house in Oakland. His own account is as follows: "I began it with three pupils, in a building which I hired for \$150 a month, to be paid in gold coin monthly in advance; to be occupied by a man and his wife, whose wages were to be another \$150 a month, to be paid in the same way. The income was not sufficient to meet expenses, and my housekeeper became alarmed. He said what did not succeed in two months and a half in California never would succeed." Trouble followed. The housekeeper turned



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—MARK HOPKINS MEMORIAL.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—MARK HOPKINS MEMORIAL.

the school-room into a bar-room and laid hands on Durant to throw him out. But Durant's faith remained unbroken. He secured a permanent site for his school, where it grew into a more dignified institution, the College of California. Its first faculty consisted of Henry Durant and Martin Kellogg. In 1860 it had six instructors and eight freshman students. It owned its grounds in Oakland and a tract of 160 acres in Berkeley, but it was poor in money and its financial growing-pains were severe. Finally, in 1867, its trustees determined to offer its property to the Board of Directors of the Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts College, appointed by the state to secure the advantages of the land grant bill, and to agree to unite with the prospective state college in forming a university. This offer was accepted, and the charter creating and organizing the University of California was signed by Governor Haight on March 23, 1868.

To this new institution the state contributed a princely national endowment for colleges of agriculture, mining and mechanics; the College of California gave grounds, an organized school, and a classical and literary side.

The charter provided for three governing bodies: the regents, who were to manage the university's business; the faculties, governing the various colleges, and the academic senate, consisting of all instructors united in one body and charged with regulating general internal affairs. A president was placed at the head. Such remains the organization of the university today.

The first professor called to the faculty of the university was John Le Conte. He arrived in 1869, and was the principal influence in formulating the internal organization of the institution. Shortly after John Le Conte's call to the chair of Physics, his brother, Joseph Le Conte, was elected professor of geology, botany and natural history. No names in the university's roll are more deeply written in her heart than these of the brothers Le Conte—*par nobile fratrum*. When they came to California the one was fifty years of age, the other forty-six. "They brought hither," as Professor Kellogg said in 1891, "their wealth of experience and reputation, with a devotion to their work, an elevation of view, a success in new achievement, which for these twenty-two years of the university's existence have been among

its chief titles to its good repute." Their French extraction and early southern home endowed them with the sweet graces and courtesies of life, and in themselves lay all the virtues of simple, sincere manliness. Many a student has found in their presence and silent example his finest university training. The elder, John Le Conte, was taken by death in 1891; the younger, Joseph Le Conte, now seventy-seven, still lectures to his classes, still crosses the college campus, still responds to the affectionate salutation of the students, one and all. May his noble influence long be spared to California.

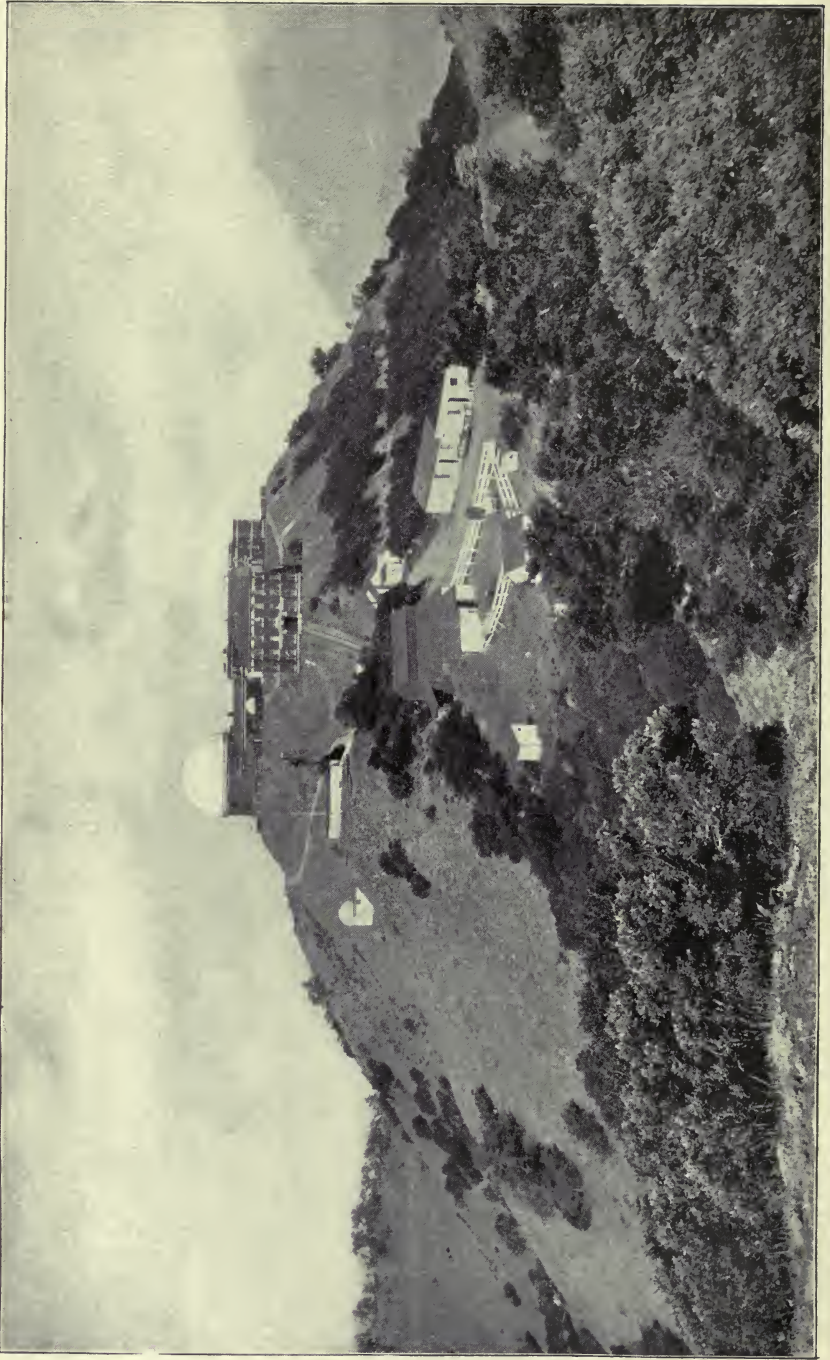
Next to John Le Conte in priority of election to the University of California, comes Professor Martin Kellogg. He had been serving for nine years in the College of California as professor of mathematics, when, in 1868, he was called to the chair of Ancient Languages in the university. He continued in active connection with these departments until 1893, when he was elected president of the university. He remained at the head of the institution for six years, his kind Christian spirit and his refined and genuine culture shedding blessings and inspiration upon all he touched. In 1899 he resigned the presidency and was at once appointed professor emeritus of Latin—his particular subject. In the summer, however, he left Berkeley with his wife for much needed rest, to be gained by a trip round the world.

Within a year after the founding of the university two important acts were passed by the Board of Regents. The first abolished all admission and tuition fees, the second opened the university to young women. One woman was graduated in 1874. The percentage of women students has steadily increased until now the number of women is to that of men about as seven to nine in the colleges at Berkeley,—that is, the non-professional colleges; or including these, in the entire university, about as nine to fifteen.

Up to 1873 the university had occupied the buildings of the College of California in Oakland. In that year the institution was moved to Berkeley, then a village of about a dozen houses, some six miles north from Oakland. Here, on the slopes of the foot-hills, with a view commanding the bay and city of San Francisco, the Golden Gate and Mount Tamalpais, lay the site deeded to the state by the College of California.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—VIEW ON THE CAMPUS.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The location had been chosen many years before by Henry Durant. He had set out with a few friends to select the ideal spot for the "college on his brain," and had passed in review many beautiful slopes and valleys and plains of luxuriant California, "where," as John B. Felton told the story, "one morning in spring he passed through fields unbroken by roads, untrodden by man, and came to the present site of Berkeley. 'Eureka!' he exclaimed, 'Eureka! I have found it. I have found it!'"

Wise was his choice, and true were his words. For if he were seeking the ideal location for a temple of inspiration, he had found it. Travelers who have known the more famous campuses of our country, who have visited the universities of England and of Europe, agree in saying that in all the world there are no such college grounds as those of California for natural beauty, charm, sublimity; and no University of California student, amid all the inconveniences of overcrowded buildings, ever fails to draw a proud breath of delight as he stands beneath the liberty-pole in front of the library, and his eye looks westward over the great silver bay, almost at his feet, and on out the Golden Gate, flanked on the right by majestic Tamalpais, on the left by the picturesque hills of San Francisco; or, turning to his immediate neighborhood, rests its vision on the firm but gentle hill slopes leading up to "Grizzly," from whose summit he has often beheld a yet wider panorama, or on the noble oaks that spread their aged limbs protectingly over the watered cañons of the hills.

It was in 1858 that the trustees of the College of California assembled at a great rock near the northern boundary of the grounds and dedicated the site to the cause of learning. This rock is within a hundred yards of the present Beta Theta Pi house, from whose windows it is conspicuously visible. In 1896, at the suggestion of Galen M. Fisher, a Beta, the graduating class placed a granite tablet in the rock, commemorating in letters of gold the dedication of 1858. At the ceremonies the speech was made by Brother Fisher. The rock is now commonly known as Founders' Rock.

As yet the site was without a name. It was not until 1866 that Frederick Billings, one of the first trustees of the College of California, while pondering on the problem of a name, repeated

to himself the lines of the famous bishop on the prospect of planting arts and learning in America:

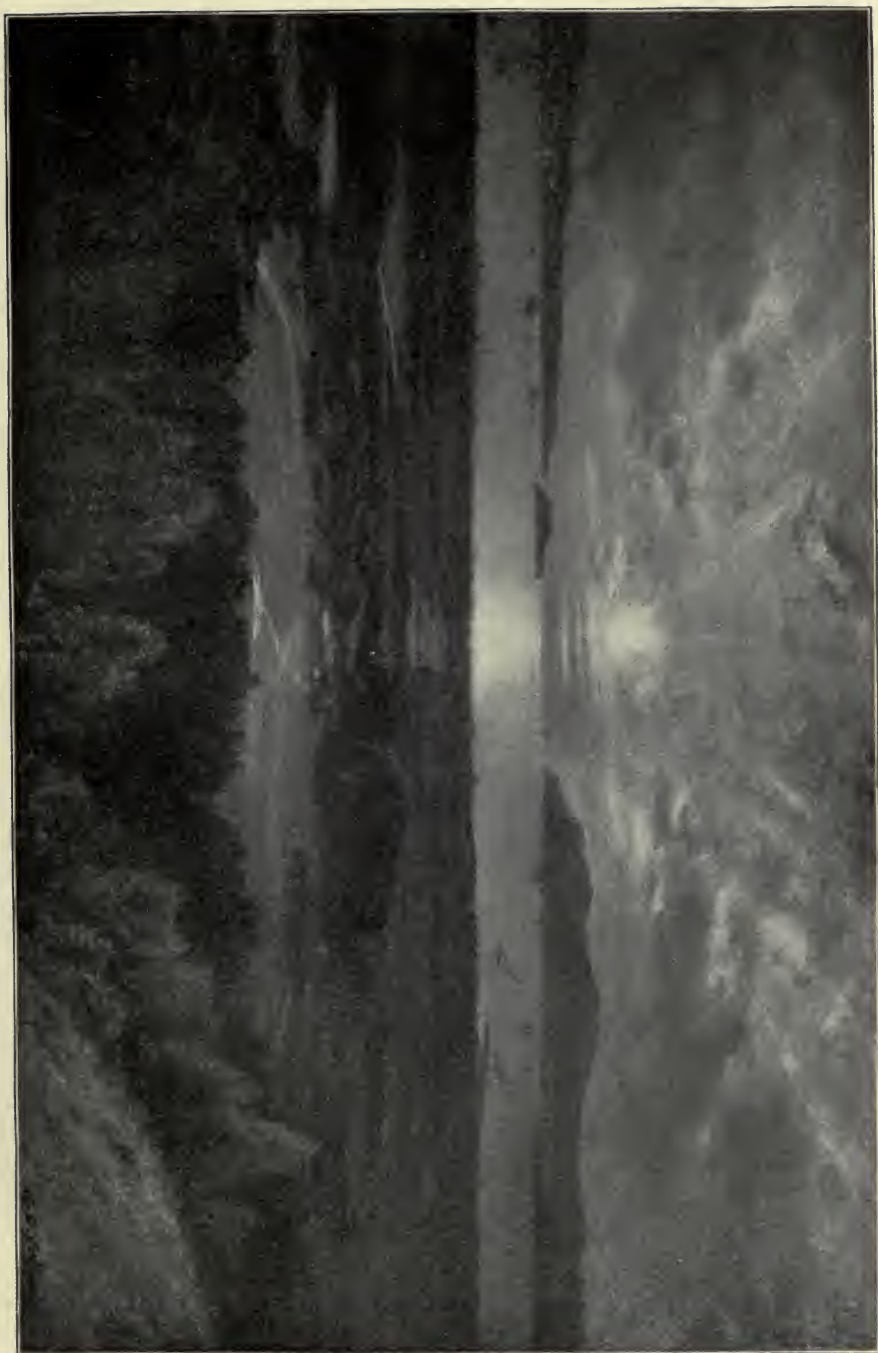
Westward the course of empire takes its way;
The four first acts already past,
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;
Time's noblest offspring is the last.

The inspiration came: *Berkeley*.

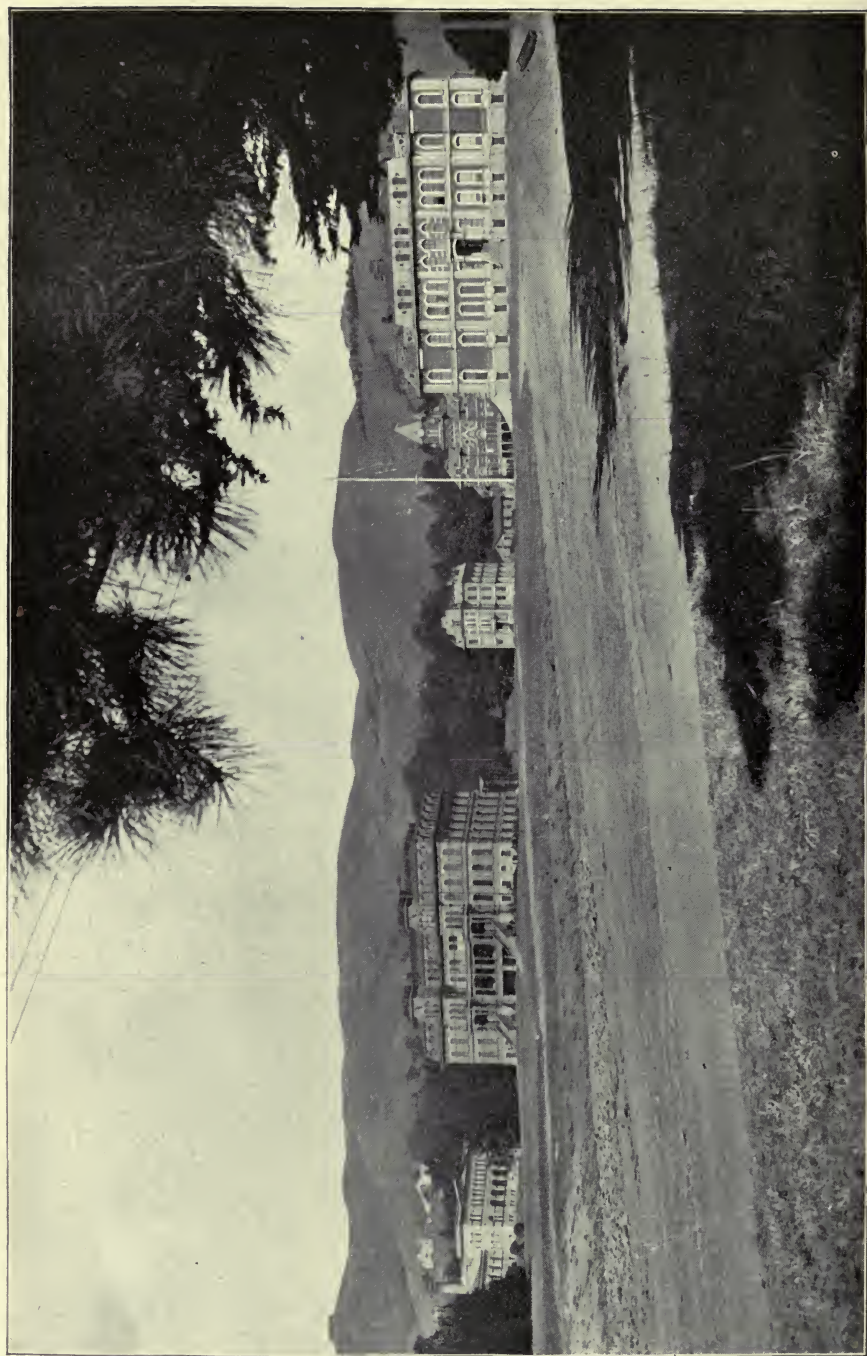
The town, in 1873 a mere hamlet, has grown with the times, until at present it numbers over 10,000 inhabitants, possesses many churches and schools, a public library, and frequent and rapid communication with San Francisco.

During the university's first year, Professor John Le Conte had served as acting president. In 1870 the presidency was offered to General George B. McClellan; but he declined, and so also did Professor Daniel Coit Gilman, of Yale. Finally Henry Durant took the place, but resigned it at the end of two years. Professor Gilman then accepted the position. He had many difficulties to face. The state was full of unrest and discontent. The result was the granger movement, which chose the university for one point of its attack. The university was accused of giving a useless education to the rich at the expense of the poor. To every Legislature the university—no adequate endowment having been made—was obliged to apply for appropriations. At every application it trembled lest the agitation in the state should influence the Legislature to refuse, or, worse, to impair or disrupt the institution. And still another antagonistic cry was raised—the university was charged with being “godless.” President Gilman met both external opposition and internal dissension, and built up the university in their despite. He developed the classical side, and at the same time strengthened the technical courses. But the friction was great, and when, in 1875, he was offered the opportunity of founding Johns Hopkins University, California suffered an irreparable loss.

During President Gilman's administration the university gained Professor Edward Sill. He filled the chair of English from 1874 to 1882. Five years after California lost him the world lost him, too. “His life,” says Professor William Carey Jones, in his admirable illustrated history of the University of California, “was as pure as the sunshine of heaven. He left a glow behind him that illuminates every spot he inhabited and



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—OUTLOOK TOWARD THE GOLDEN GATE.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—THE BUILDINGS AT BERKELEY

every soul with whom he had communion. He was above all a poet, with all the sensitiveness, with all the earnestness, with all the desire to deliver to the world a message that characterizes the essential poet." The exquisite teaching of his life was embodied in a lyric now famous, "The Fool's Prayer." Tradition hands his memory down through the generations of students, and California still acknowledges to Edward Rowland Gill much of what is finest and noblest in her atmosphere.

In 1879 the constitution of the state was revised, and certain discontented elements in the state united in an effort to break up the university. But the position of the institution was immeasurably strengthened. The university was declared a public trust, self-controlled except for such action on the part of the Legislature as might be necessary to insure compliance with the terms of its endowments.

In 1881 Mr. D. O. Mills endowed the university with \$75,000, the income of which was to maintain a chair of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy and Civil Policy. In 1883 the first and present incumbent, Prof. George Holmes Howison, was elected. Professor Howison has been and remains one of the strongest men on the faculty. When compromise or opportunism seems about to prevail in the councils of the university, his voice clears the sky and the light of truth and right and wisdom is let in. His name is known throughout the philosophical world as one of the greatest living disciples of Kant. At present he is visiting in Oxford, England, in association with his fellow-Kantian, Dr. Caird, of Baliol. It may be permissible to add, in the pages of the Beta magazine, that he has with him a Beta of the class of '99, Harry A. Overstreet, and that two of the most prominent members of his department at Berkeley, Professors George M. Stratton and Charles M. Bakewell, are Betas of the Omega chapter.

In 1887 the Legislature passed the Vrooman act, providing that there should be levied annually, for the support of the University of California, a tax of one cent upon each one hundred dollars of value of the taxable property of the state. This enlarged and certain income immediately allowed the growing forces of the university to develop, and expansion followed. Into the making of the new university many other elements entered. Among them was the system of accrediting schools, by

which students of schools whose work has been passed upon by university examiners and declared up to the standard, may be admitted to the university without examination upon the recommendation of their principal. At present there are ninety-one schools in California credited for the whole or part of their curriculum.

Another factor in the university's expansion was the inauguration in 1890 of university extension work. This has become a regular feature of the university. During the present fall the university announces one regular class in Chinese and four lecture courses, numbering some twenty-five lectures.

Yet another influence toward the university's full development was the establishment of the Leland Stanford Junior University at Palo Alto. Many at the time thought that the roll of students at the state institution must necessarily decrease. But such was not the case. California has seen her largest growth since her rival came. Rivalry is good. Competition has spurred each university on to its best efforts, example has profited each, and each has given something new and advantageous to the other.

After the resignation of President Gilman in 1875, the succession of presidents ran as follows: John Le Conte, 1875 to 1881; William T. Reid (of the Illinois College chapter), 1881 to 1885; Edward Singleton Holden, 1886 to 1888; Horace Davis, 1888 to 1890. Upon President Davis' resignation, the faculty elected Professor Kellogg their president pro tempore; in 1893 he was elected president of the university by the regents. After a six years' administration, marked by a rare combination of conservative-progressive wisdom, President Kellogg resigned, in the present year.

In this rapid review of the history of the university, much of great importance to its life has necessarily been omitted. The author has merely tried to touch upon a few significant details, whereby might be suggested something of the university's character, of its helps and hindrances, something of the inspiring atmosphere created by its superb situation before Golden Gate, and by the daily presence of the rare and honored men who have served upon her faculty. We turn now to take a sweeping glance over the university of today.

The university is made up of the academic colleges at

Berkeley, the professional colleges, the School of Fine Arts and the School of Industrial Arts, in San Francisco, and the Lick Astronomical Department on Mt. Hamilton.

The Academic Colleges are divided into two groups, as follows :

- A. The Colleges of Liberal Culture—
 - (1) The College of Letters.
 - (2) The College of Social Science.
 - (3) The College of Natural Science.
- B. The Colleges of Applied Science—
 - (1) The College of Agriculture.
 - (2) The College of Chemistry.
 - (3) The Engineering Colleges.
 - (i) The College of Mechanics.
 - (ii) The College of Chemistry.
 - (iii) The College of Civil Engineering.

The course in the College of Letters leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts; in that of Social Science to Bachelor of Letters; in all the other colleges to Bachelor of Science. In the Colleges of Liberal Culture the one hundred and twenty units, i. e., hours of recitation credit necessary to graduation (besides the five units of military drill), are divided into sixty units of prescribed work, intended to be accomplished in the freshman and sophomore years; thirty units of group elective work, i. e., work upon one special subject or two closely allied subjects; and thirty hours of free elective, made up of single courses at the will of the student. The prescribed work is intended to compel breadth in foundation,—the group elective to give thorough grasp of some one subject, pursued along lines of original investigation; the free elective to allow play for the student's peculiar preferences and to cultivate independent choice and self-direction. Upon the whole, the scheme works admirably. The only criticism to be made is that the exigencies of arranging work to meet the conditions of time of recitation, choice of instruction, and special requirements, such as those imposed upon the prospective teacher, are such as ordinarily to devour all the thirty hours of free electives. There is a need for a little less prescription and more freedom. In the Colleges of Applied Science the prescription covers much more

of the ground ; in some, indeed, it covers the whole. But here in these specialized colleges, it is much more justifiable.

Graduate work has for some time past been receiving special attention from the university authorities. The degrees of Master of Arts, of Letters, of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, Mechanical, Mining, Metallurgical or Civil Engineer, are given. The first three require at least one year, the last five at least three years of graduate work.

Two prominent features of the life at Berkeley for male students are prescribed military drill and prescribed gymnasium exercises. Every male student must participate in outdoor drill for one hour twice a week during his three years, and attend a military lecture one hour a week during his fourth year. There are eight companies, formed in two battalions, with a signal corps, a saber company, and a band. The officers throughout are students. Gymnasium is prescribed three hours a week for two years.

The number of students in the colleges at Berkeley is 1,743, as against 1,565 at this time last year. Of these 158 are graduate students, 565 are freshmen, and 1,020 are undergraduates, not freshmen. The teaching force at Berkeley numbers 159.

There are three student publications at Berkeley: The *Californian*, a four-page newspaper published five days in the week ; the *Occident*, a weekly ; and the *University of California Magazine*, issued monthly, and representing all colleges in the university and, through its alumni department, the past students as well as the present.

There are sixteen fraternities at Berkeley,—thirteen for men and three for women. All occupy houses either rented or owned. The absence of dormitories has developed a strong fraternity home-life. If it were not for this, indeed, Berkeley would have little of that peculiar atmosphere that makes a college man and that is known as college life. The men's fraternities, in the order of their establishment, are: 1870, Z Ψ ; 1875, X Φ ; 1876, Δ K E ; 1879, B ⊙ Π ; 1873, Φ Δ ⊙ (revived in 1881) ; 1886, Σ X ; 1886, Φ Γ Δ ; 1892, Σ N ; 1894, Σ A E ; 1895, X Ψ ; 1895, K A (southern) ; 1895, Δ Y ; 1898, Δ T Δ. The women's fraternities are: 1890, K A ⊙ ; 1894, Γ Φ B ; 1897, K K Γ.

The professional colleges in San Francisco consist of the Hastings College of Law, founded and endowed by Judge S.

C. Hastings in 1878; the College of Medicine, founded by Dr. H. H. Toland in 1864 and affiliated with the university in 1873; the San Francisco Polyclinic, affiliated with the university in 1892 as the Post-Graduate Medical Department; the College of Dentistry, organized in 1881; the College of Pharmacy, affiliated with the university in 1873; and the Veterinary College, affiliated in 1894. The curricula of these colleges cover fully the field in their own lines. The affiliation with the university is closer in some than in others, but in all the president of the university is the president of the college, and degrees are conferred by the university. The professional colleges are magnificently housed in three adjacent buildings on the same square in San Francisco. Their students number a total of over five hundred, their instructors and lecturers over two hundred.

In 1872, the California School of Design was founded in San Francisco. In 1893 it became affiliated with the university as a fine arts college, under the name of the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art. It occupies the former residence of the late Mark Hopkins, a palatial building in whose great galleries and suites of salons the university receptions take place. The institute has eight instructors and over two hundred students. Classes are held in elementary drawing, antique, life, portrait, composition, perspective, etc.

The Wilmerding School of Industrial Arts, handsomely endowed in 1894, has opened this year for the first time. Its object is to enable its students to become first-class mechanics, and hence its schedule consists largely of shop-work.

The Lick Observatory, on the summit of Mount Hamilton, in Santa Clara county, was opened in 1888. The great 30-inch refractor which it contains was then the largest in the world. Since then it has been surpassed in size by the 40-inch telescope of the University of Chicago. The telescope and observatory were the gift of James Lick, at a cost of \$700,000. Besides the great equatorial, the observatory is fully equipped with instruments. Its researches and discoveries have more than justified the hopes of its founder. One of the most brilliant was the discovery of the fifth moon of Jupiter on September 9, 1892, by Professor Edward E. Barnard, whom, by the way, we all know as a Vanderbilt Beta. It was nearly three hundred

years since the well known four moons of Jupiter were first seen by Galileo. For his discovery Professor Barnard received the highest recognition from the French Academy of Sciences. The observatory is the property of the university.

The university of the present numbers some 2,500 students, 120 officers of administration, and 410 instructors.

So much, then, for the university of the past and present. Let us turn to the university of the present and future. We immediately encounter two great names. The first is that of Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst, now one of the university's most honored regents. It was in 1891 that Mrs. Hearst, the widow of the late United States Senator Hearst, endowed the university with a sum sufficient to support eight \$300 scholarships for young women. This gift was but in a line with numberless previous benefactions, noiselessly distributed here and there throughout the country, and but the first of many others to follow to the university.

Chief among these stands the "Phœbe Hearst architectural plan." It was in 1896 that Mrs. Hearst, who had for some time desired to provide the young women of the university with a gymnasium and a general day-home, and also to erect a Mining building as a memorial to her husband, but who had hesitated, owing to the lack of any such genuine plan for the grounds and buildings at Berkeley as would secure architectural harmony, learned that a movement to secure just such a plan was afoot in the Board of Regents, but was hanging fire on account of lack of funds, whereupon Mrs. Hearst said: "I should like to undertake that; I am ready to provide the money." The scheme had been broached in 1895 by Mr. Maybeck, then instructor in drawing in the university. It had been heartily espoused by Professor William Carey Jones and by Regent Reinstein. Through the latter it had been put before the regents, and a formed vote secured that there should be prepared an architectural program "for a permanent and comprehensive plan, to be open to general competition, for a system of buildings to be erected upon the grounds of the University of California at Berkeley."

Upon the acceptance of Mrs. Hearst's offer to defray the expenses of an international competition, Mr. Reinstein and Mr. Maybeck were sent east and to Europe to consult with

architects, and in 1897 a prospectus and a program, in English, French and German, were issued. The architects of the world were invited to send plans to Antwerp for the preliminary competition. One hundred and five plans were received. The judges were Jean Louis Pascal, of Paris, winner of the Grand Prix de Rome in 1866, and at present engaged with the sculptor Barrias on the monument to Victor Hugo; R. Norman Shaw, of London; Paul Wallot, of Berlin, architect of the new Reichstag building in the imperial German city; Walter Cook, of New York, president of the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects; and J. B. Reinstein, of San Francisco. Eleven plans were granted preliminary acceptance. Only the authors of these were allowed to compete for the final prizes. They were invited to visit Berkeley, and nine of the eleven did so. The final competition took place in San Francisco in the months of August and September of this year. After the judges, who were the same as at the preliminary competition, save that the place of Mr. Shaw, who was prevented from coming by illness, was taken by Mr. John Belcher, of London, had carefully examined the topography at Berkeley, and had determined that the successful plan must represent a university rather than an architectural composition, and must conform to the grounds and preserve their natural beauties, the examination of the plans began. On the 7th of September the decision was announced. The first prize, the sum of \$10,000, was won by M. Bènard, of Paris. The four other prizes were all won by American architects.

The plans submitted were then exhibited to the public. Each competitor sent a general plan, with many explanatory cross-sections and elevation plans, and also the plans for one building in detail. The workmanship of the plans was exquisite, their constructive imagination truly magnificent. The people of California received a rare education in great architecture through this exhibition, and the University of California is notably enriched by the acquisition of the eleven plans.

M. Bènard's plan possesses the virtues of permanence in general outline, adaptability in detail, and preservation of the great and natural beauty of the present water-courses and groves of ancient oaks. It provides for broad avenues, sunny gardens, retired walks, and calls for about thirty buildings. These do

not need to be constructed all at once. Indeed, one of the principal advantages of M. Bènard's plans is their elasticity. Their realization in stone is to take place slowly, building by building, under more than one generation of architects ; is to be a constant education in appreciation of art ; is, as has been well said, to be a creator of art here in California.

The plan is the result of a world-competition. Certainly it embodies the most splendid architectural conception for a university the world has ever known, and in itself the competition has been productive of great results. As Architect Cahill, of San Francisco, has said: "When it was proposed that foreign architects should be invited without limit and that foreign judges should decide upon their merits, the world looked incredulous. Such a thing was unheard of and inconceivable in Paris and Berlin, almost inconceivable in London and New York. Consequently, London, Paris, Berlin and New York shook their heads. Now that the award has been made, and that to a foreign architect by a majority of foreign jurors—and that no demur has been made by an American, last of all by a Californian architect—the world of art is slowly waking up to the fact that a very big thing has been done here on the edge of the Pacific—one of the biggest on record ; so big, indeed, that it is hard to realize its full import. Posterity will put its signature to this affirmation and history will endorse it."

The other great name in the present and future of the university is that of Benjamin Ide Wheeler. California's new president is too well known to need introduction here. He has been here less than a month, and there is not a department in the vast complexity of the university that has not felt his vivifying influence and straightway shown it in good results. He has the unqualified support of the regents to an extent that no former president ever enjoyed ; he is the cause of nothing but harmony among the faculties, where former presidents, elevated from the professorship, have encountered jealousies and petty bickerings ; and as for the students, just as they are animated by the deepest gratitude to their multi-benefactor, Mrs. Hearst, so to their immediate friend and guide, President Wheeler, they already give intensest loyalty.

Under these auspicious conditions, the University of California looks forward to a bright future, and sets as her goal the foremost place in American state universities.







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